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2025 Journey Preview

Outbound Stratford/St. Marys, Ontario, Canada.....
..... Sept. 22-29

2026 Journey Assignments

Inbound: FF Connecticut..... April TBD
Outbound: FF Tallassee, FL..... Date TBD
Outbound: FF Southland & Taupo, New Zealand
..... November TBD (2 weeks)

Club Website: www.friendshipforceknoxville.org
FFK on Facebook: Friendship Force of Knoxville
Club E-mail: FriendshipForceKnoxville@gmail.com
My Friendship Force: <https://my.friendshipforce.org>

Preview of FFK August and September Meetings

Please mark your calendars for the next two monthly meetings! Details will be available in upcoming newsletters!

August Event: Pilgrimage to Europe by Joan Turbyville

Date:.....August 26

Time:.....6:30 p.m. Social; 7:00 p.m. Program

Location:Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (TVUUC)
.....2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919



September Event: International Theme Potluck Dinner

Date:September 9

Time:6:30 p.m. Social; 7:00 p.m. Program

Location:Susan Dakak's Home
.....11235 West Point Drive, Knoxville, TN 37922

Note from the President

I hope all had a safe and enjoyable 4th of July. Our FFK July program was to be a celebration of the 4th planned for July 1st. However, due to weather forecasts, this was rescheduled for July 2nd. The rain delay did not dampen the fun and fellowship had at Art and Marsha Mitchell's home. All enjoyed the poolside dining. Members took a dip in the pool and sat along the side, dangling their legs in the refreshing water. Thank you, Art and Marsha!!



The club conducted another recruiting event at the Karns Senior Center. Thanks to all club members that supported this opportunity to share information regarding Friendship Force. We now have a new member as a result of that event: Delora Cook. Welcome Delora! We will be conducting another event at the West Knoxville Senior Center on Monday, July 14. Please remember to send the Membership Chair or me suggestions with contact information regarding groups that would be willing to host a presentation about FFK in hopes of gaining new members.

Our June program regarding the 2024 FFK journey to Hamburg was a success. The club seemed to enjoy the photos and experiences shared by the ambassadors. Thank you, Karen Swander, for arranging this presentation. Our program in August will be conducted by Joan Turbyville. It will be about her pilgrimage to Europe. This should be quite informative, please plan to attend.

I continue to request members to step up and volunteer to be nominated for Board of Director positions for 2026. The club needs a nominee for the position of President and an individual to be appointed as Communications Chairperson. Please consider volunteering to be nominated for either of these positions. By indicating interest now, there are several months to gather information regarding the positions prior to taking the office in January.

Karen Scott, President

The FFK 2025 & 2026 Journeys

2025 Journeys

Our club's final outgoing journey of 2025 is to **FF Stratford/St Mary's, Canada**. Twelve ambassadors are slated to attend this trip. Karen Scott is Ambassador Coordinator for this journey. It looks like all of us will be "road tripping" to Canada.

2026 Assigned Journeys

Inbound:

April (Tentative month)- Connecticut, USA to Knoxville, USA

Outbound:

Month to be determined - Knoxville, USA to Tallahassee, Florida (new assignment).

The Villages club has disbanded, and FFI has instead reassigned us to visit Friendship Force Tallahassee. The Tallahassee club was originally part of a Florida State University group but joined FFI in 2021. Although journeys may vary, their FFI profile indicates that they usually spend one day south of Tallahassee visiting Wakulla Springs at either the St Marks Refuge or Gulf Specimen Lab. Another day may be spent slightly north in South Georgia visiting a Planation home and the beautiful city of Thomasville, Ga. In Tallahassee, ambassadors usually tour the Goodwood Plantation, Mission San Luis, The Grove, and Maclay Gardens.



November - Knoxville, USA to Southland and Taupo, New Zealand (2 weeks)

The best time to visit New Zealand is during the summer months of December to March. Expect long, bright, sunny days and temperatures between 61°F and 75°F. It's an ideal time to visit the lovely beaches or enjoy the many outdoor activities available, such as hiking and mountain biking.

Taupo, a town near the center of New Zealand's **North Island**, is distinguished by its lakefront setting and outdoor sports ranging from fishing to jet-boating. The vast waters of Lake Taupo, a volcanic caldera, drain into the Huka Falls, dramatic, crystal-blue cascades reachable by hiking and biking trails. Surrounding Taupo are hot springs.

The Southland club is located in the southernmost part of the **South Island**. The Southland region has some unique scenery including beaches on the south coast, typical native bush with waterfalls and a petrified forest on the Catlins Southern Scenic route, wonderful views along the coast in several directions including Stewart Island, (there is the possibility of traveling to Stewart Island).

Leslie Badaines, Acting Journey Chair

Member Profile: Jean and Ron Mayer

Jean Mayer

How long have you lived in Knoxville/or some other city?

I have lived in Knoxville for 63 years. I grew up on Roselle, New Jersey, and graduated from Abraham Clark High School. I attended Cedar Crest College in Allentown, Pennsylvania, for one year before graduating from the University of North Carolina in Greensboro, NC, in Music Education.

Current or past career/jobs

I taught choral and general music in Asheville, NC, for one year and then spent twenty-six years teaching at Rule High School and Gresham Middle School in Knoxville before retiring in 1999.



The Mayers in Roan Mountain State Park

How did you hear about Friendship Force?

In 2001, Friendship Force member Joanne Schuetz invited Ron and I to travel to Japan with FFK. We joined the club and traveled to Nagasaki and Kumamoto, Japan.

Interest/hobbies

I have enjoyed music as an educator, a participant, and attending concerts. I spend much time reading, hiking, cooking and entertaining. My children and grandchildren bring much joy into my life.

Activities within FF Knoxville

Ron and I have been on numerous international outbound journeys with FF Knoxville including Japan, Hungary, Brazil, Germany, Poland, Mongolia, Calgary and Chile. We have also traveled within the United States to numerous clubs and have home hosted clubs from out of town. We have also served as home hosts for the Open World program.

Ron Mayer

How long have I lived in Knoxville and my career jobs

I grew up in Asheville, NC, and moved to Knoxville after graduation from NC State University with a degree in civil engineering and continued my education at UT with a degree in water resources development while working at TVA. I have lived in Knoxville ever since. My job with TVA involved directing the daily operations of the 39 reservoirs.

What are my interests and hobbies ?

What I do for fun to a large extent is hiking either at Norris Dam State Park or with the Thursday Hiker group. I also enjoy my association with special friends and with Friendship Force and church activities.

What are my activities within FF Knoxville ?

I have supported Friendship Force Knoxville as inbound host and as outbound journey coordinator as well as open world host on many occasions. My most recent adventure travel with Friendship Force Knoxville was our trip to Germany which was great fun but had its challenges. I remember the times we had to quickly jump from one train to another.



The Mayers Chile-bound

A Look Back on the June 24th Presentation on Germany And the FFK Celebration of the 4th on the 2nd

Presentation on Germany:

L to R: Mike McDonough, Ron Mayer, Jean Mayer, Karen Swander, Karen Scott



Questions, anyone?



At the front table from L to R: Delora Cook, Beth Huemmer, Cynthia Headrick, Marsha & Art Mitchell. Leslie Badaines has her back to us in the photo.



The event took place at the Schulz Brau Brewing Company.



Celebration of the 4th on the 2nd

L to R: Paulette Anerson, Art Mitchell, Ron Mayer, Leslie Badaines



L to R: Joanne Hayden & Jayne Raparelli

L to R: Delora Cook, Karen Scott, Carol Ann Johnson



2025 Upcoming Date Mark your Calendar

Virtual Board Meetings (2nd Tuesday, 2 p.m.)

Aug. 12 Sept. 9 Oct. 14 Nov. 11
Dec. no mtg

NOTE: If you are interested in attending the virtual Board Meetings, please e-mail Betsy Tonkin (betst@mac.com) for the Zoom link.

Upcoming FFK General Events

- August 26: Pilgrimage to Europe, Joan Turbyville, TVUUC
- September 9: International Theme Potluck Dinner, Susan Dakak's home
- October 28: General Meeting, TVUUC

Check newsletter articles about each event for date, time and place details.

These dates and more are on the
FFK *Calendar* web page.

2025 Club Officers & Chairpersons

Officers:

President Karen Scott
Vice President..... OPEN POSITION
Secretary Carol Ann Johnson
Treasurer Marsha Mitchell

Committee Chairpersons:

Program Chairperson OPEN POSITION
Membership Chairperson OPEN POSITION
Journey Chairperson OPEN POSITION
Communications Chairperson Janis Robinson
Club Concerns Paulette Anderson
Historian Karen Swander
Hospitality Chairperson OPEN POSITION

Host & Ambassador Coordinators are listed on
the FFK *About Us* web page

FFK members can request a copy of Board meeting minutes from Janis Robinson via email to FriendshipForceKnoxville@gmail.com